



ARTICLE ALERT

SEPTEMBER 2013

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

The U.S. Mission partners with Indonesia to strengthen the bonds between our people and our governments to promote and protect democracy, security, and sustainable prosperity for our people, the region, and the world.

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2013



Young members of the Folklorico dance troupe wear dazzling costumes on a float in the Pinatafest parade in Roswell, New Mexico.

A CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE

Washington — Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, honors the diverse people of Spanish-speaking backgrounds in the United States — those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Special programs, events, exhibits and websites celebrate the culture, traditions and extraordinary contributions of the 48.4 million Hispanics who constitute the largest and fastest-growing minority group in the United States, according to the Census Bureau. In addition, there are about 4 million residents of Puerto Rico, a Caribbean U.S. territory. The Hispanic population is projected to nearly triple to almost 133 million by 2050, and will jump from 16 percent to 30 percent of the U.S. population. Two-thirds of Hispanic-origin people in the United States are of Mexican background. Next in line are people of Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran and Dominican backgrounds.

THE STORY OF AMERICA ITSELF

Today, more than ever, Hispanic Americans play an integral role in shaping the American experience. Hispanics serve on the U.S. Supreme Court and in two Cabinet posts (Labor and Interior). The influence of Hispanic culture is reflected in every aspect of American life, from politics to education, music and television. "The story of Hispanics in America is the story of America itself," says President Obama. "The Hispanic community's values — love of family, a deep

and abiding faith, and a strong work ethic — are America's values."

The president says that Hispanics have served with honor and distinction in the armed services and have enriched U.S. culture in every arena, "from sports to the sciences and from the arts to our economy."

HONORING HISPANIC CULTURE

The celebration of Hispanic heritage began on a national scale in 1968 with a weeklong celebration. The designated week was selected to coincide with Independence Day celebrations on September 15 in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, September 16 in Mexico and September 18 in Chile. In 1988, President Reagan approved a law expanding the celebration to a month, running from September 15 to October 15.

In addition to community events, a number of U.S. government agencies celebrate the month with special events and projects.

The U.S. Library of Congress has a Web page dedicated to Hispanic Heritage Month. The library is also sponsoring the creation of an oral history of America, and one initiative — StoryCorps Historias — focuses specifically on recording the diverse stories and life experiences of Latinos in the United States. Its Veterans History Project site features pages devoted to Hispanics in Service and Experiencing War.

The Smithsonian Institution, headquartered in Washington, has created the Smithsonian Latino Center to develop Latino-themed programs and exhibits for national and international audiences. The center is also documenting the Smithsonian's extensive collection of Latin-American objects.

Another agency celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month is the National Park Service, which tells the story of Freedom Tower, the entry point for thousands of exiled Cubans into Miami, now a national historic landmark.

Source: <http://snip.state.gov/6e3>

Related Links:

- ◆ Proclamation on National Hispanic Heritage Month 2013.
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6e1>
- ◆ Hispanic Heritage Month Resource Links
Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6ql>

DEMOCRACY AND IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

1. Hagel Talks to Indonesian Soldiers About Education, Training/ By Cheryl Pellerin. American Forces Press Service, 28 August 2013.

Aboard a Military Aircraft — In the short time he had between meetings with national leaders and a news conference in Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sat down yesterday with members of the Indonesian armed forces and talked about being a soldier. Hagel noted that the United States and Indonesia have many such exchanges through military exercises, training and education. People-to-people exchanges, "regardless of your profession, but in particular the military-to-military exchange, is a very solid bridge-building mechanism for countries," he added. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6cp>

2. The Rise of Cities and the Mayors Who Run Them/By Tod Newcombe. Governing.com, September 2013

With the feds and states more marginalized than ever, cities -- and the mayors who run them -- are growing stronger. Nobody really expects the next mayors to outshine their illustrious predecessors. But whoever ends up running these cities will be part of a new generation of city leaders that have growing political clout, and will be governing economic regions that outpace the nation's economy. As Bruce Katz points out in his new book, *The Metropolitan Revolution*, several key factors have opened the door to cities. For one, he writes, the Great Recession has disrupted national economies while partisan gridlock has stymied national politics. At the same time,

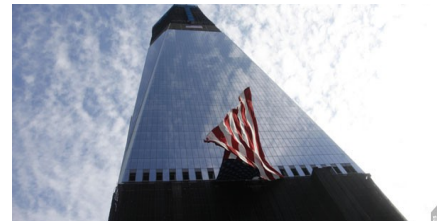
states that are heavily dependent on federal grants to run programs are struggling with decisions of what to keep and what not too. But, he writes, "cities and metros ... are responding with pragmatism, energy and ambition to get things done." Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6ek>

3. Why Do So Many Governments Resist Benchmarking?By Katherine Barrett & Richard Greene. Governing.com, September 2013.

We've always thought of ourselves as good parents. You'd have to ask our children to see if that's a fair statement. But here's one thing we wish we had not done. When our daughter would come home from a soccer practice or play in the rare game that we missed, we would ask her, "How'd you do?" She would give us a mealy-mouthed answer that didn't satisfy our curiosity. So, our next question--the one we probably should not have asked--was, "Were you one of the best?" Why do we bring this up in a column about government management? The truth is that we were trying to get to a performance indicator by asking that she benchmark herself against her peer group. Just like many cities, counties and states do. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6em>

4. Yudhoyono's Legacy: Between Politics and Principle/ By Paige Johnson Tan. Current History, September 2013.

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Indonesia's president since 2004, will step down in 2014. Known as SBY (es-bay-yay) to Indonesians, he is still, toward the end of his second term, a mystery to many. Does he merit being this



Remembering September 11

An American flag flies from the nearly complete Freedom Tower, rising in lower Manhattan next to where the World Trade Center towers were destroyed on September 11, 2001.

In a series of solemn ceremonies in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania each September 11, Americans come together to remember, to grieve and to renew their commitment to a future that is peaceful and prosperous not just for the United States but for the world.

Past and present U.S. presidents and other federal officials join with survivors and families of victims to mourn the lives cut short by the attacks and celebrate the resilience of the American spirit. Read more:

<http://snip.state.gov/6cl>

year's a recipient of the World Statesman Award for religious tolerance? Is he a member in good standing of global establishment, helping to guide the United Nations' Secretary General's eminent persons group?

To get the full text of this article, please fill in the request form at page 4 or email us at ircjakarta@state.gov.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5. The Real Reason Creative Workers Are Good for the Economy/ By Richard Florida. The Atlantic Monthly, September 2013.

How does creativity get turned into big commercial innovations that ultimately lead to new businesses, new jobs, higher wages and economic growth? This is something I've spent a lot of time thinking about ever since I wrote *The Rise of the Creative Class* a decade ago. Skeptics counter that creativity and the creative class are at best loosely connected to innovation. The real key to the kinds of technological breakthroughs that power economic growth, they argue, comes from clusters

of innovative firms and industries, not from creative workers spanning arts, design, culture and media as well as science, technology and management. Read more <http://snip.state.gov/6de>

6. Open Source, Open World/ By Yuri Takteyev. Foreign Affairs, September 2013.

In the first week of July, 7,000 people gathered in Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil, for the annual meeting of the International Free Software Forum. Every year since 2000, the forum has met to discuss what is commonly known as open source software -- software that indi-

viduals can use, change, and redistribute -- and is called "free software" by many of its true believers. The forum, one of the world's largest, takes place thousands of miles away from the place where the free-software movement originally started, at American universities such as MIT and Berkeley. And that is no accident. Although the production of free software remains largely centered in the United States, it could end up having greater economic and political consequences for places like Brazil. To get the full text of this article, please fill in the request form at page 4 or email us at ircjakarta@state.gov.

PEACE AND SECURITY

7. President Obama Addresses the Nation on Syria/ Whitehouse.gov, September 2013.

Just after 9:00 PM ET, President Obama delivered a national address from the East Room of the White House to discuss the situation in Syria. He explained why he has called for military strikes in response to the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons, laid out his reasons for asking Congress to authorize the use of force, and described how the threat of U.S. action has created the potential for a diplomatic breakthrough. "Terrible things happen across the globe, and it is beyond our means to right every wrong," the President said. "But when, with modest effort and risk, we can stop children from being gassed to death, and thereby make our own children safer over the long run, I believe we should act." Read the full remarks at <http://snip.state.gov/6di>

8. Public Backs Diplomatic Approach in Syria, But Distrusts Syria and Russia/ Pew Research Service, September 2013.

As U.S. and Russian diplomats reached an agreement over the weekend to dismantle Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles, the public expresses support for a diplomatic approach to the crisis but is skeptical about its effectiveness. By a 67% to 23% margin, the public approves of Barack Obama's decision to delay military airstrikes and pursue a diplomatic effort to convince Syria to give up its chemical weapons. However, just 26% think Syria will give up control of its chemical weapons, while 57% think it will not. More generally, the public has little trust in Syria. Just 8% say the United States can trust Syria a great deal or a fair amount, while 63% say Syria cannot be trusted at all and another 22% say it can't be trusted much. The public is skeptical of Russia as well: just 24% say the United States can trust Rus-

sia even a fair amount, down from 33% last year. Read more : <http://snip.state.gov/6e0>

9. A Tough Case for Strikes on Syria/ Interviewee: John B. Bellinger III, Interviewer: Jonathan Masters. Council on Foreign Relations, September 2013

The Obama administration faces a difficult task in justifying U.S. military strikes on Syria, says John B. Bellinger, former top attorney at the State Department during the George W. Bush administration. "The problem is that there really is no good international legal basis for the use of force in Syria," he says. However, the White House could stress that the Assad regime's alleged use of chemical weapons on its own people "poses a threat not only to the United States, but to international peace and security, which may justify the right to use force in collective self-defense," he says. Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6dh>

AMERICAN SOCIETY AND VALUES

10. Austin, Texas: Fiercely Independent Live Music Capital/IIP Digital, August 2013.



Austin, the 11th-largest city in the United States, has adopted the slogan "The Live Music Capital of the World" because it's home to many musicians and live music venues. Each March, musicians, filmmakers and social media entrepreneurs converge on Austin for the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival. Its countercultural ambiance contrasts with Austin's identity as the capital of a U.S. state better known for rodeos, barbecue and other hallmarks of traditional culture. Read more at <http://snip.state.gov/6en>

11. Boston, Massachusetts: America's City of Firsts/ IIP Digital, September 2013.

Known for its key role in the American Revolu-

tion and its excellent educational institutions, Boston is the capital of Massachusetts and the political, commercial and financial center of New England. With a population of 4.6 million, Greater Boston is the 10th-largest U.S. metropolitan area. Explore historic neighborhoods that were home to early American patriots and welcomed generations of immigrants. Wander Boston's red-bricked "Freedom Trail" and its "Emerald Necklace" of green park spaces, including the famous Boston Common. The city's rich past is complemented by a thriving present as a global leader in innovation. Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6e2>

12. Overcoming Barriers to Equal Education/ IIP Digital, August 2013

Access to education is a fundamental human right. Education provides the foundation for an individual's professional, economic, social and personal development. Education enables individuals to hone their skills and realize their full potential. Unfortunately, many barriers to education persist, preventing individuals from realizing their full potential and contributing meaningfully to society. These barriers may be physical, mental, social or financial. Read more: <http://snip.state.gov/6co>

eLibraryUSA Database for Free

eLibraryUSA is a virtual library with access to nearly 30 authoritative databases that cover a broad range of resources on English learning, current and global issues, business news as well as information about science, technology, art and culture.

More than 10,000 IRC contacts already got individual access this valuable resource.

Please contact us to get a training and an individual account to eLibraryUSA Database.

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INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER'S PRODUCTS AND ACTIVITIES

ABOUT US

The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about the United States. Our collections include the updated reference titles, a periodical section, DVDs movie and music, audio books, games and access to extensive online database which cover topics ranged from American policy, government, politics, economics, history, English language, education, culture, society as well as global topic of interests.

Our professionally-trained reference specialists use a wide array of resources to retrieve the information quickly, conveniently. With one day appointment in-advanced, walk-in visitors are welcomed to visit the IRC facility, to use its resources, get research assistances and attend various programs on English language, EducationUSA, information literacy classes and movies/ gaming activities at no cost. We open on weekdays (except for Indonesian and American Holidays) from 8.00 AM to 04.00 PM.

Check our collections via our online catalog at: <http://snip.state.gov/58x>



English Learning at the IRC

On September 20, Information Resource Officer (IRO) Myra M. Brown lead English writing class attended by students from Darma Persana, Siswa Bangsa International, Bina Nusantara and Mercuru Buana.

October 2013 Programs:

- ◆ October 3, 2013, 15.00-16.00
American Corners ITB and UNTAN in Pontianak join @America in Jakarta via DVC to host program on Entrepreneurship: Unlocking Opportunity and Economic Freedom featuring Tom Donohue, U.S. Chamber of Commerce CEO and President.
- ◆ October 24, 2013, 14.00-16.00
IRC I-Professionals Forum Discussion on Resource Description and Access (RDA) with Librarian from Library of Congress Jakarta at @america

- ◆ 4th week of October 2013
IRC Movie Club: Gangs of New York at the IRC Jakarta

To join our programs, make appointment for the visit as well as to request for a particular program arrangement, please contact us at:

The U.S. Embassy Annex
Gedung Sarana Jaya, 8th Floor
Jl. Budi Kemuliaan I /No. 1
Jakarta 10110
Tel.: 021-3508467 | Fax.: 021-350-8466
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You can also do research and participate in various programs at:

- ◆ **IRC Surabaya**
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- ◆ **American Corners in Indonesia**
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ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM

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Name: _____

Organization: _____

Complete Address: _____

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Request for:

- ☐ 1. Hagel Talks to Indonesian Soldiers About Education, Training
- ☐ 2. The Rise of Cities and the Mayors Who Run Them
- ☐ 3. Why Do So Many Governments Resist Benchmarking?
- ☐ 4. Yudhoyono's Legacy: Between Politics and Principle
- ☐ 5. The Real Reason Creative Workers Are Good for the Economy
- ☐ 6. Open Source, Open World
- ☐ 7. President Obama Addresses the Nation on Syria
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- ☐ 10. Austin, Texas: Fiercely Independent Live Music Capital
- ☐ 11. Boston, Massachusetts: America's City of Firsts
- ☐ 12. Overcoming Barriers to Equal Education

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